

FREE EUROPE GUILD NEWS

Published by the Free Europe Unit, Newspaper Guild of New York

Vol. 11, No. 1

January 30, 1967

UNIT COUNCIL OFFICERS AND MEMBERS ELECTED FOR 1967

Herman Singer was re-elected chairman of the Free Europe Unit at the head of a slate which was nominated by a membership meeting on November 15. There being no opposition for this and other Unit Council posts, the following were all declared elected to serve for 1967:

First Vice Chairman	- Romeo Cherot
Vice Chairmen	- Pavel Korbel - Jan Librach - Jan Lorenc
Secretary	- Ewa Markowska
Treasurer	- Jivko Ghelev
Council Members	- Oton Ambroz - Jethro Berry - Lucille Campbell - Liviu Floda - Tibor Florian - Frantisek Meloun - Shefki Miraku - Franz Neumark - Alfred Reisch - Barbara Vedder
Representative Assembly Alternates	- Sandor Kiss - William Pauliny

UNIT COUNCIL CALLS FOR SUBSTANTIAL WAGE INCREASE IN 1967 CONTRACT

The first meeting of the new Unit Council on January 19 adopted the following resolution by unanimous vote:

"The Unit Council expresses its full approval of the proposals submitted by the New York Newspaper Guild on behalf of the major newspapers in New York. We are particularly interested in the proposal calling for a salary increase of twenty percent, which we feel has immediate relevance to the Free Europe Unit in view of forthcoming negotiations on the collective bargaining agreement which expires June 30, 1967. The rapid increase in the cost of living and the continuing lag in Free Europe's salary level compared to that prevailing in radio and other publications media make it essential for the Free Europe Unit to put primary emphasis on obtaining a substantial increase for Free Europe staff members in the course of 1967 negotiations."

It was also the sense of the meeting at which this resolution was adopted that the Free Europe Unit endorses the New York Guild's demands for a full Guild-shop contract; a \$15,000-a-year minimum for top editorial staffers; the 28-hour workweek, working seven hours a day for four days, exclusive of lunch; double-time pay for all work over the seven-hour day or 28-hour week and for all work performed before or after regular working hours--with no exceptions; a paid sabbatical leave of three months after ten years' service, six months after twenty years and one year after 25 years; and severance pay at the rate of four weeks for each year of service, to be funded by the management and paid on termination of employment for any reason, including death.

GUILD SEEKS STAFF STATUS FOR FOUR FREE-LANCERS IN RADIO

During the course of the 1966 contract negotiations, the Guild submitted a request for permanent staff status for four free-lancers regularly employed by RFE. Since no agreement was reached during negotiations, it was agreed to put off a decision for two months after the contract was signed. The Guild has now been informed that three of the requests had been turned down, and that a decision concerning the fourth has not been made.

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The Guild spokesmen reiterated their view that RFE has an obligation to devoted professionally-trained free-lancers whose services have contributed to the success of RFE for periods ranging from five to fifteen years, and who have been working under substandard pay without the benefit of staff status and who have not had the protection of Guild membership.

UNIT COMMITTEES FOR 1967 NAMED

The following standing committees for 1967 were approved by the Unit Council:
 Bargaining: Singer (Chairman), Cherot, Korbel, Librach, Lorenc, Neumark.
 Grievance: Cherot (Chairman), Korbel, Meloun, Ghelev, Singer.
 Membership: Ambroz (Chairman), J. Berry, Miraku, Campbell.
 Pension, Insurance: Korbel (Chairman), Rozenal, Choukanoff, Miraku.
 Welfare: Kiss (Chairman), Pauliny, Floda, Florian.
 Rules: Reisch (Chairman), Kovacs, Markowska.
 Information: Howell (Chairman), Trimble, Vedder.
 Human Rights: Nenoff (Chairman), Mieroszezowska, Fultz, Davis, Maslowycz.

HOW TO EXPRESS YOUR SUPPORT FOR THE CITIZENSHIP BILL

The Rodino Bill, under whose terms RFE staff members serving in Munich will get credit toward American citizenship while living abroad, will again be under consideration at the 90th session of Congress. The Guild in Washington, Munich and New York, has pressed hard for passage of such legislation through the years, and is hopeful that this year will see a successful conclusion of its campaign. Free Europe officials are also actively engaged in pushing for passage of this legislation.

Guild members are urged to write their congressmen expressing support of the bill. Guild members who are in the districts of the following Congressmen can write them directly, since they are serving on the House Committee on the Judiciary which is considering the bill:

Rep. Peter W. Rodino, New Jersey.

Rep. Jacob H. Gilbert, New York.

Rep. Cahill, New Jersey.

Rep. King, New York

Letters of support may also be sent to Rep. Emanuel Celler, Chairman, House Committee on the Judiciary, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C., and to Rep. Michael A. Feighan, Chairman, Subcommittee on Immigration and Nationality, at the same address, which can also be used in writing to local congressmen.

Some months ago, the Free Europe Unit cooperated in bringing to the attention of leading nationality groups in the United States the need for expressions of support for the Rodino Bill, and received a most encouraging response.

ELECTIONS FOR SHOP STEWARDS TO BE HELD IN FEBRUARY

Elections for shop stewards are scheduled to be held in February in every department under Guild jurisdiction. The shop stewards will serve for the year of 1967. Jivko Ghelev, who was elected chief shop steward for 1966, will arrange for the election procedure in consultation with members in various departments.

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